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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9787
INFO RUCNSOM/SOMALIA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFIUU/CJTF HOA IMMEDIATE
RUZEFAA/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE
RUZEFAA/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NAIROBI 001160

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/E AND A/S CARSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [SO](#)

SUBJECT: SOMALIA - JOURNALISTS STOP WORK TO PROTEST LACK OF
SAFETY

REF: NAIROBI 1133

Summary

¶1. (SBU) Twenty Somali journalists in Mogadishu have stopped working to protest the continuously deteriorating security situation for media practitioners in Somalia, especially in the capital. They announced the suspension on June 9, two days after the murder of Radio Shabelle Director Mukhtar Hirabe (reftel). Hirabe was the fifth journalists killed this year in Somalia, considered by some to be second only to Iraq in terms of dangerous environments for journalists. End summary.

Work Stoppage
to Protest Violence

¶2. (SBU) Two days after the June 7 murder of Radio Shabelle Director Mukhtar Hirabe (reftel), Somali journalists in Mogadishu announced a suspension of work to protest the continuously deteriorating security situation for media practitioners in Somalia. Hirabe was the fifth Somali journalist to be killed in Somalia this year. Many other journalists have been arrested, injured, or harassed, and several stations have been subject to closure. The work suspension was announced at a press conference at a Mogadishu Hotel. Stations affected by the journalists' work stoppage include Shabelle, Universal TV, HornAfrik and Radio Simba. All of these stations are among those with whom Post works on our outreach, and with whom the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) works. Our contacts indicate that the twenty are mostly senior journalists who work out of the offices in Mogadishu, rather than reporters "in the field."

¶3. (SBU) Abdirahman Yusuf, news editor for Radio Shabelle, said the decision to stop working was made after "acts of killing, kidnap and intimidation against journalists" have increased in recent months. The journalists noted that they are unable to determine with certainty who is behind the various actions, particularly Hirabe's apparent assassination, noting that extremist groups blame each other for the dangers the journalists face. We are told that the twenty journalists have not set an end date for their stoppage. In addition to the twenty who have announced a presumably temporary work stoppage, we are told there is another cadre of journalists who decided to give up the

profession, either finding new work in Mogadishu or attempting to leave the city altogether.

RANNEBERGER